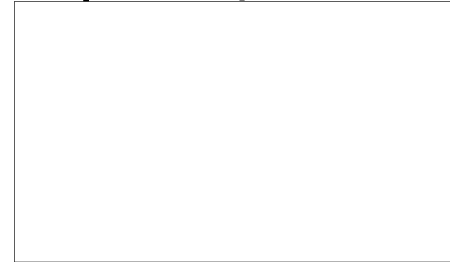




Director of
Central
Intelligence

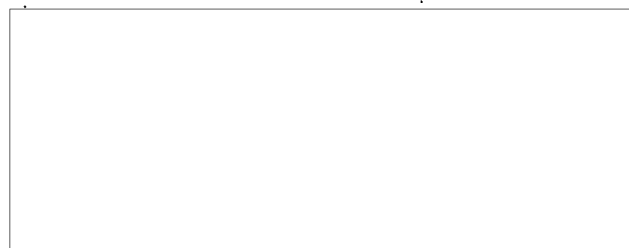
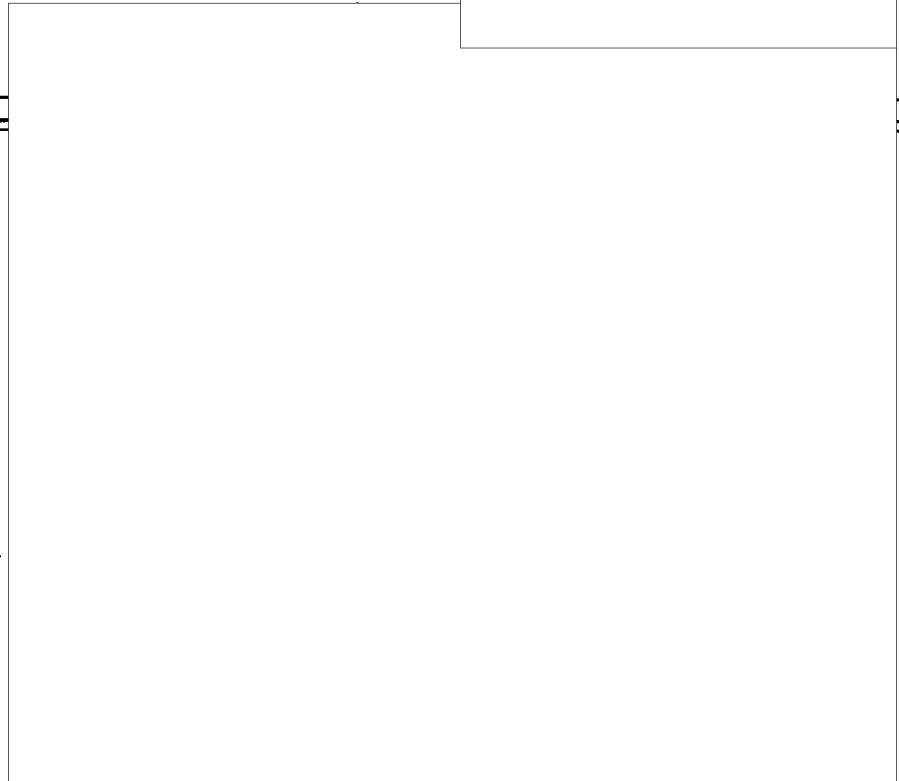
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Friday
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INDIA-PAKISTAN:**Gandhi, Zia Meet Tomorrow**

(b)(1)

Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and Pakistani President Zia will probably try to use their meetings in New Delhi this weekend, their first since the recent Indo-Pakistani confrontation, to put the border issue behind them and reinvigorate previous attempts to improve relations. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Zia's nonofficial visit, ostensibly to attend an Indian-Pakistani cricket match scheduled for Sunday, will include working meetings and dinner with Gandhi. New Delhi has taken pains to set a friendly tone for the occasion, and the Indian press is featuring upbeat stories on the visit. [redacted]

(b)(3)

~~Both sides have announced the completion of the initial troop withdrawals specified in their agreement of 4 February.~~ [redacted]

~~Pakistani I Corps withdrawing to their cantonments.~~ [redacted]

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Comment: Neither Gandhi nor Zia probably anticipates that the meetings will lead to significant agreements, although they almost certainly expect the outcome to reduce mutual distrust. The atmospherics are likely to be positive, reflecting the fact that the two sides expect few problems during negotiations this month on additional, sector-by-sector troop drawdowns. Similar meetings between Gandhi and Zia in the past have failed, however, to bring about sustained improvements in bilateral relations. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Zia will probably carry proposals for confidence-building measures, perhaps including joint efforts against narcotics, smuggling, and terrorism. He will almost certainly press for additional high-level meetings later this year. Zia will also use the meetings to promote a statesmanlike image at home and to prove to hardliners in Islamabad that peaceful coexistence is necessary for Pakistan's security. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Gandhi will use the meetings to answer domestic critics who charge that he lacks the skill to lead India. Favorable press coverage of the visit will help him improve his image in response to accusations that he mismanaged the border confrontation. He will probably agree in principle to visit Pakistan, but he is likely to hold off doing so until substantive bilateral agreements are reached. Despite paying lipservice to confidence-building measures, Gandhi will remain concerned that Pakistan is supporting the Sikhs. [redacted]

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